

**The Jones Library, Inc.
Munson Memorial Library
North Amherst Library**

Fiscal Year 2004

Impact of budget cuts. Amherst readers and researchers encountered closed doors at the Town libraries in FY 04, as budget cutbacks resulted in reduced staffing and hours of service. A cut of eleven hours at the Jones and branch libraries combined meant 10% fewer hours of service per week than the previous year. Overall library borrowing declined from 565,257 loans in FY 03 to 528,116 (-6.6%). Use of children's materials suffered a drop of 12%, while borrowing of materials for adults decreased by only 3.4%.

Demand for information assistance remained constant at about 40,000 requests for help during the smaller number of hours of service. The number of tourists, genealogists, and scholars using the Special Collections department declined only slightly, from 3,071 to 2,993 (-2.5%), despite the loss of 6 hours open to the public (-15% of the previous year's schedule).

The decrease in hours did not reduce the demand for meeting space. Groups and individuals used meeting rooms and galleries 509 times for cultural events and discussions. Library staff and the Friends of the Library sponsored 320 programs attended by 8,500 people.

More access to more materials. Demand for audio and video/DVD titles continued to grow this year, comprising over a third (37%) of all loans at Town libraries. Vinyl LP recordings have become a thing of the past. The few remaining LP's were removed to make room for an expanding CD collection. As a result of a class action lawsuit, the recording industry donated 750 music CD's to Town libraries.

Federal grant funds under the Library Services and Technology Act expanded the Library's books, magazines, and video collections in Chinese, Korean, Khmer, and Spanish. A "Welcome!" sign in English, Korean, Vietnamese, and Tibetan now greets visitors at the front door, and multi-lingual brochures were distributed at schools and groceries to encourage library use. Audiences loved the four Asian language films and story telling featured in September. "I am homesick and these movies were wonderful for me," a new library user commented.

Information, please! Genealogists found better information resources on the new "Ancestry Plus" database. This web-based service provided easy access to two billion name records, census data, family histories, naturalization and immigration files. Thanks in part to a grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation for new computers, training, and software, more people learned to use new technology. Fifty "Get a CLUE!" basic computer skills classes were filled with folks who were just getting started on the Internet. 21,244 people signed up to use one of the computers for personal work and research in FY 04.

The hot topic of "identity theft" was addressed at two panel discussions, featuring speakers from the library, Amherst Police Department, and Greenfield Savings Bank. An extensive tip sheet on identity theft became one of the most frequently used pages on the Library's website.

The ESL Coordinator worked with the Amherst Health Department to assist elderly Asian residents. Sixty-nine students were matched with volunteer tutors, leaving others on a waiting list. Requests for citizenship application packets and preparation classes increased, as more refugees actively pursued naturalization.

Preserving Amherst's past. The Special-Collections department showcased the musical elements of Emily Dickinson's poetry with performances by folksinger Sean Vernon and a lecture-recital by mezzo-soprano Virginia Dupuy, who was assisted by Doris Abramson as reader and pianist Shields-Collins Bray.

Charles Johnson generously enlarged the Clifton Johnson collection by donating manuscripts, family records and 577 original drawings and other artwork. Clifton Johnson (1865-1940) wrote, illustrated and edited over 100 books depicting New England folklore, children's stories, and travel books. Wally Swist generously donated a collection of his published poetry, manuscripts, and editions of works by Robert Francis. Swist is currently poet-in-residence at Fort Juniper, the Robert Francis house, and has had a long association with the Jones Library.

A center for the community. From Burnett Art Gallery openings and lectures on herbal health care to children's science experiments and Dr. Seuss's 100th Birthday party – there was something for everyone happening at the Library. Toddlers came for “Sing with your baby” and story times in English and Spanish. Oldsters enjoyed Louise Minks' talk on Harper's Ferry in the Civil War and Prof. William Matthew's on Irish History.

Gardeners came for the lectures, tours, bulbs, and dried plant arrangements during the daylong celebration “Bringing the Garden In,” sponsored by the fantastic Friends of the Library. Book collectors picked up professional advice from four “Colloquies on Old Books,” another very popular Friends lecture series. Town libraries truly served as centers of learning!

Many thanks to all 103 library volunteers and to the 600 donors who contributed \$33,620 to the Library's Annual Fund Drive. The families and friends of Helen Smith and Robert Esposito kindly contributed memorial book funds. The library also received contributions from Margaret Holt's estate, and from Judy Simpson in memory of Dudley H. Towne. Financial support also came from the Greenfield Savings Bank, the Harp Restaurant, Dave's Soda and Pet Food City, and the Ha Ha Sisterhood Improv Group.

Lucy Wilson Benson made a generous donation in honor of John L. Roberts, who retired from the Board of Trustees after 17 years of service to the Jones Library. The staff and Trustees sincerely thank both Trustees Roberts and Arthur Quinton, who also retired in FY 04, after 14 years of service to the library. Best wishes to Reference Librarian Polly Peterson, who retired after 31 years at Jones Library!

LIBRARY SERVICES AT A GLANCE

Materials Loaned – FY 04	
Total	528,116
Jones - Adults	299,980
Jones - Kids	154,609
Munson Memorial	38,050
North Amherst Library	35,477

Research Assistance – FY 04	
Total	40,568
Jones-Adults	21,093
Jones-Kids	8,595
Special Collections	2,993
Branch Libraries	6,891
ESL Center	996

Materials Available June 30,2004	
<i>Books</i>	207,938
<i>Audio & Video Items</i>	22,172
<i>Other materials</i>	481
<i>Added during FY 03</i>	9,356
<i>Donations added</i>	1,684
<i>Withdrawn in FY 03</i>	7,182

Amherst Residents with C/W MARS cards, June 30, 2004	
Adults	18,777
Children	3,016
New Borrowers registered in FY 03	2,615

Endowment Balances. Columbia Management reports the market value of the Jones Library, Incorporated Endowment Fund at \$7,816,685 as of June 30, 2004.

OUR MISSION: The Jones Library strives to stimulate and support the civic and cultural life of all people of our region by

- ❖ providing access to materials
- ❖ assisting people in their quest for information
- ❖ preserving the history of our community, and
- ❖ serving as a meeting place for the community's educational and cultural pursuits.

Contact us!

Jones Library, 43 Amity Street, Amherst, MA 01002
Telephone: 413-256-4090

Visit the library on the World Wide Web:
www.joneslibrary.org

LIBRARY TRUSTEES

Anita Page, President
Willis Bridegam, Vice President
Maureen O'Leary, Treasurer
Merrylees (Molly) Turner, Clerk
Kathleen Wang, Asst. Treasurer
Ann Grose, Trustee

LIBRARY STAFF

Bonnie Isman, Library Director
Sondra Radosh, Asst. Director & Children's Librarian
Amy Anaya, Circulation Librarian
Beth Girshman, Adult Services Librarian
Susan Hugus, Munson Memorial Librarian
Rosemary Loomis, Reference Librarian
Tevis Kimball, Curator of Special Collections
Pauline Peterson, Reference Librarian (retired June 17, 2004)
Carolyn Platt, Head of Technical Services
Maggie Spiegel, North Amherst Librarian
Lynne Weintraub, ESL Coordinator
Henry Allan, Computer Technician
Tina Swift, Administrative Assistant
Chris White, Cataloging Technician

John Imbimbo, Building Supervisor
Kate Boyle, Special Collections Assistant
Silvia Brinkerhoff, Children's Library Assistant
Miguel Otero, Assistant Custodian
John Power, Assistant Custodian
Seth Rothberg, Assistant Circulation Supervisor
Lace Stokes, Sunday Supervisor
Cathy Verts, Audiovisual Technician
Theresa Atteridge, Library Assistant
Laurie Holbrook, Office Clerk/Receptionist
Margot Gilfeather, Library Assistant
Ralph Hurwitz, AV Assistant
Judy Lincoln, Library Assistant
Ron'na Lytle, Library Assistant
Joan Pyfrom, Cataloging Assistant

PART-TIME STAFF: Jane Babcock, Cyrus Banerjee, Nonny Burack, Margaret Burrows, Laura Castano-Longley, Catherine Cooper, Janice Doyama, Eileen Driscoll, Tomi Eve, Jordan Funke, Julie Gilfeather, Margaret Girouard, Bryan Grabigel, Tara Herzig, Jean Holden, Alexander Kaiser, Nicholas Kaiser, Karen Kappenman, Karen Kowles, Courtney Krumrey, Jessica Lamson, Robin Levine, Sheila McCormick, Susan McCoy, Joanne McGee, Barbara McGlynn, Wanda Meck, Julia Moore-Diaz, Luz Oquendo, Aaron Rosenblum, Janet Ryan, Nadine Schneider, Lisa Slocum, Martha Stearns, Dorothy Thornton, Valerie Vaughan, Mary Weidensaul, plus college work/study student helpers.

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